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THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE

EDUCATION FOR AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN FRANCE

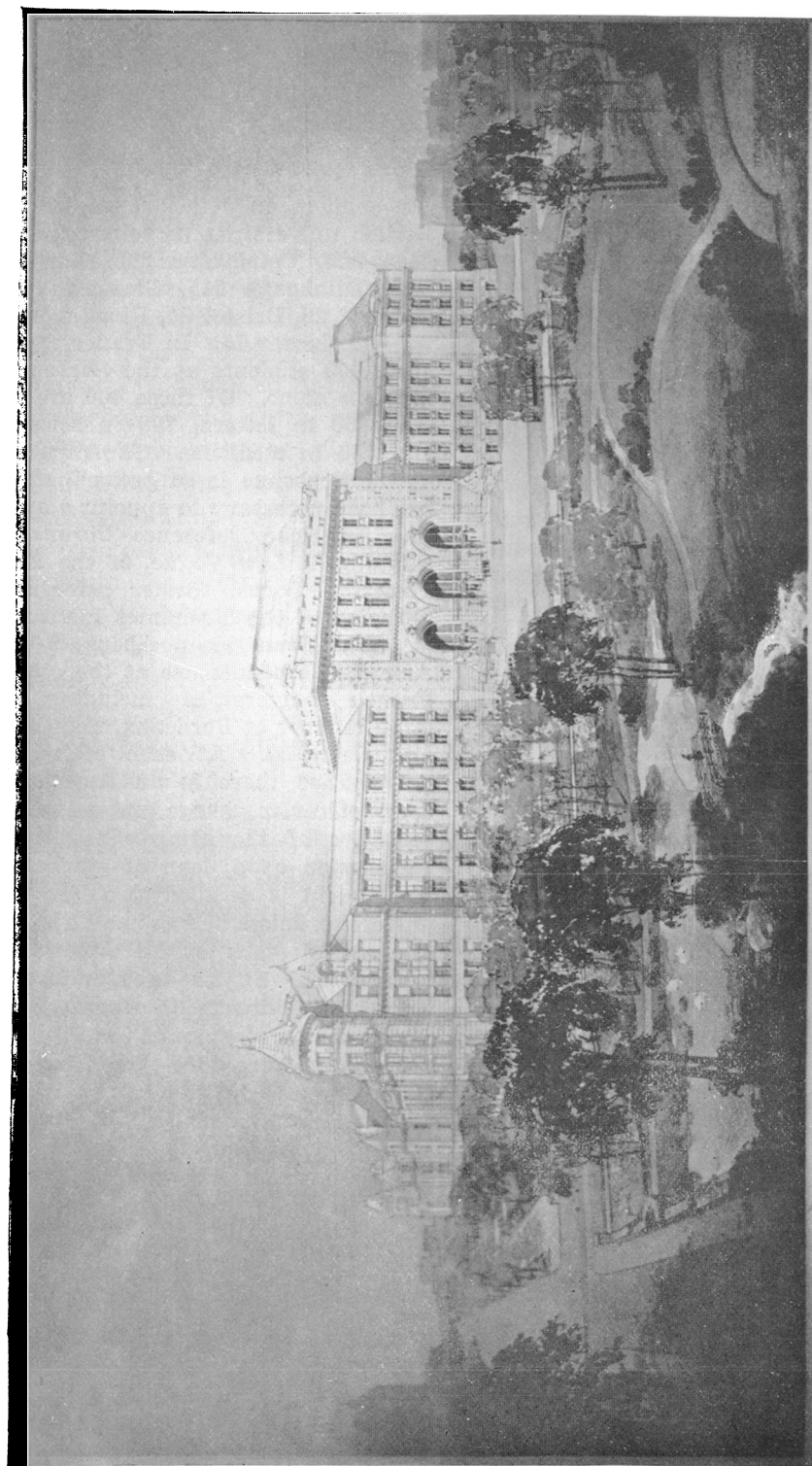
THE University at Beaune, twenty miles south Dijon, is now in full operation, according to letters received by Secretary Stokes of Yale University, chairman of the committee which during the past year has represented the Army Educational Commission in this country. Over six thousand students from the army were registered by the middle of March, these being divided into the following colleges—Colleges of agriculture, arts, business, education, engineering, industry and trades, journalism, law, letters, medical sciences, music and science. The teaching faculty includes over 500 men drawn from the army and from the experts—several hundred in number—sent over by the Young Men's Christian Association for developing the plans of the Army Educational Commission.

The organization of the university includes a superintendent, Colonel Reeves, formerly president of Norwich University, Vermont; an educational director, Professor Erskine of Columbia University, chairman of the Army Educational Commission; the directors of the various schools; the faculty, etc. Each term is for three months, the first term being March, April and May; the second, June, July and August. Each student carries as a minimum three lectures or recitation hours daily during five days of the week, and four and a half hours daily in study periods.

In addition to the University at Beaune, the army educational commission has arranged for students to attend British and French universities. A recent cable from London reports the enrollment of Ameri-

can soldiers on detached service in British universities as follows: Oxford 200, Cambridge 205, London 725, Edinburgh 215, Glasgow 265, Sheffield 20, Bristol 21, Birmingham 75, Manchester 75. In France there are 2,000 students at the Sorbonne in Paris alone. Of these 400 are in law, 650 in letters, 798 in science and 150 in medicine. The number at the Sorbonne is so great that it has been necessary to appoint a special American reference librarian, Captain A. Law Vogue, of the Engineering Corps, former reference librarian of the Mechanics Institute in San Francisco. About 2,000 American students are at the other French universities including a large number at Bordeaux, Toulouse and Grenoble. At each of these universities there is an American army officer in charge and a representative of the army educational commission as a dean of students. No student is detailed to a French university unless he has had at least two years' work at an American college, and agrees to remain to complete the three months term. The officers and professors of the French universities have done everything in their power to facilitate the studies of American students.

Special emphasis is being placed on agricultural education, an army farm school having been opened at Allerey in April. It is under the supervision of President Butterfield, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, a member of the army educational commission. It takes care of students who are not sufficiently advanced to pursue agricultural courses at the university in Beaune. Over 1,000 are in attendance and about 350 acres of land are available for farm demonstration work.



DESIGN FOR THE EASTERN FACADE OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

In addition to these facilities, agricultural "institutes" covering three days are being held at various places.

Another development is that of the correspondence college. The subjects in which students may take correspondence work are as follows: Civics and citizenship, salesmanship and personal development, gasoline and automobile, farm management, arithmetic, geometry, history of the United States, shorthand, algebra, trigonometry, shop arithmetic, advanced shop mathematics, steam boilers, heat and steam engines.

In addition to these opportunities, there is, as already announced, a system of post schools in the army which has been developed by Mr. Frank Spaulding, superintendent of public schools of Cleveland, Ohio, who with Professor Erskine and President Butterfield make up the army educational commission sent over by the Young Men's Christian Association. These give instruction in common school subjects and lead up to divisional high schools where the instruction is midway in grade between that of the post schools and of the university.

Running through the whole educational plan abroad is the emphasis on citizenship. Not only is instruction in this subject emphasized at the various schools, but "institutes" are held at various places for intensive instruction. The first of these began in Verdun on March 26. The troops were brought in by their commanding officers in groups from 200 to 500; speakers presented problems of public health, community betterment, economic relations, etc. Exhibits and motion pictures were used to enforce the lessons. Emphasis is also being placed on vocational guidance. A group of experts is stationed at Le Mans, where most of the troops are quartered for several weeks before sailing home. Here everything possible is done to

supply soldiers with information regarding the industrial situation in America, and to give the men personal advice as to trades and occupations.

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IN 1918

THE American Museum of Natural History in New York City completes this year its semi-centenary, but the celebration of the anniversary has been postponed owing to war conditions. During this period the city has contributed \$5,318,820 for building purposes and somewhat over four million dollars for maintenance, while the trustees have presented to the city collections and endowments valued at nearly fifteen million dollars. It is now twelve years since any addition has been made to the buildings. The museum has an ample site for extension, and as shown in the accompanying illustration plans have been drawn for a facade facing Central Park. It is, however, to be feared that under existing conditions the city is not likely to make appropriations for new buildings, desirable as it would be to celebrate in this way the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the museum.

For the current year, in fact, the city has decreased its appropriation for maintenance by \$25,000, the decrease being in effect \$50,000 because of mandatory increases in the wages of employees who have been earning \$1,800 and under per year. In 1918, the trustees contributed the sum of \$88,348 for the payment of salaries and other maintenance expenses for which the city budget had not made sufficient provision. This year, with living expenses no lower, and a maintenance fund smaller, it has not only been found impossible to make deserved salary increases, but a number of employees have been dismissed. Further plans for retrenchment include